

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 EUR-12 EA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SCA-01 VO-03 SCS-03 A-01 OPR-02 AID-20 FDRE-00 DPW-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2272

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FOR S/R:ORM

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF ICEM

SUBJ: REFUGEES FROM INDO-CHINA AREA AND ROLE OF ICEM

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IN ORDER FOR ICEM TO UNDERTAKE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM AREAS OUTSIDE EUROPE, ICEM MUST HAVE REQUEST FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENT OR UNHCR AND ICEM MUST THEN SECURE "APPROVAL" OR "NO OBJECTION" TO SUCH MOVEMENT ACTION FROM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

2. THEREFORE IN ORDER GET ICEM SQUARED AWAY FOR MOVEMENT OF CAMBODIAN AND/OR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, MISSION PROPOSES SEND FOLLOWING LETTER TO ICEM DIRECTOR. QUOTE:
IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REQUEST THE SERVICES OF ICEM IN ARRANGING THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM THE INDO-CHINA AREA. IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME TO SPECIFY THE LOCATION,
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NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE ICEM SERVICES WHICH WILL BE

REQUIRED EVENTUALLY. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ICEM IS REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT OF ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT ICEM PROCEDURES THE DIRECTOR OF ICEM IS ASKED TO BRING THIS REQUEST TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT IS RECALLED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SPECIAL FUNDS ARE REQUIRED FOR ICEM TO UNDERTAKE A NEW ACTIVITIY UNDER ITS NON-EUROPEAN PROGRAMS, AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE INTIAL PHASE OF AN ICEM PROGRAM IN INDO-CHINA. HOWEVER, AS A SMALL NUMBER OF THE REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA WHO ARE NOW IN THAILAND HAVE EXPRESSED A WISH FOR RESETTLEMENT IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT IN THE FUTURE THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES FROM INDO-CHINA WILL BE OF CONCERN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY TO OTHER ICEM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. UNQUOTE.
PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY WHETHER DEPARTMENT AGREES TO OUR DISPATCH OF ABOVE LETTER.
IF NOT ADVISE CHANGES IN TEXT.

3. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S AGREEMENT TO LETTER SPELLED OUT IN PARA 2 ABOVE, WE PROPOSE SENDING FOLLOWING SEPARATE LETTER TO ICEM CONCERNING FINANCING OF SUBJECT REFUGEE MOVEMENTS. QUOTE:
A SEPARATE LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO ICEM FROM THIS MISSION REQUESTING THAT ICEM UNDERTAKE TA SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM THE INDO-CHINA AREA, AND DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH YOUR STAFF ON THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMTNS FOR SUCH A PROGRAM AS ARE KNOWN AT THIS TIME.
AT THIS STAGE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO ICEM CERTAIN FUNDS TO CAPITALIZE INTIALLY THE COSTS WHICH CAN BE PROVISIONALLY FORESEEN FOR THE CURRENTLY KNOWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUP OF ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA WHO ARE NOW IN THAILAND AND WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES. IN LINE WITH OUR EXHCANGE OF LETTERS DATED---MARCH 1975, THESE FUNDS SHOULD BE SET ASIDE IN A SPECIAL SUB-ACCOUNT OF USG ACCOUNT NO. 1 IN THE ICEM LOAN FUNDS FOR REFUGEES OUTSIDE EUROPE, WHICH SUB-ACCOUNT MAY LATER BE MERGED WITH THE OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

IN ACCOUNT NO. 1.

ICEM WILL THEREFORE BE AUTHORIZED TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS NEW SUB-ACCOUNT THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION AND A NOMINAL FEE FOR ALLIED SERVICES WHICH ARE TO BE COVERED BY A PROMISSORY NOTE SIGNED BY THE INDIVIDUAL REFUGEE TO BE ASSISTED. IT IS REALIZED THAT IN UNDERTAKING THIS NEW ACTIVITY UNDER THE NONEUROPEAN PROGRAM OF ITS BUDGET, ICEM WILL INCUR STAFF OR OTHER COSTS OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE WHICH CANNOT BE CHARGED TO OTHER SECTIONS OF THE BUDGET. THEREFOR, SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT, SUCH COSTS CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM THIS NEW SUB-ACCOUNT WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO PROMISSORY NOTE PROCEDURES. UNQUOTE.

4. UPON RECEIPT OF OUR LETTERS, ICEM DIRECTOR WILL COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING TO MEMBERS OF ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. QUOTE:
I HAVE THE HONOR TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE ENCLOSED REQUEST RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ICEM ASSISTANCE TO BE EXTENDED TO REFUGEES FROM THE INDO-CHINA AREA.
AS INDICATED IN THIS LETTER THE RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE INDO-CHINA AREA MAKE IT DIFFICULT AT THIS STAGE TO DETERMINE THE NUMBERS OR THE LOCATION OF PERSONS WHO WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE. I HAVE THEREFORE SENT THE CHIEF OF ICEM'S DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND TRANSPORT TO BANGKOK ON 18 APRIL TO ASSESS THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR AN OPERATION INVOLVING THE RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES OF ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA WHO ARE PRESENTLY IN THAILAND AND TO FORMULATE A PICTURE OF FUTURE NEEDS. AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE I SHALL BE REPORTING TO GOVERNMENTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IN THE MEANTIME THE INITIAL REQUIRED OPERATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT.
I TRUST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT, AS A MEMBER OF THE ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO A PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE BY ICEM IN FAVOR OF REFUGEES FROM THE INDO-CHINA AREA.
YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY BE ASSURED THAT NONE OF THE FUNDS FROM ICEM'S NORMAL BUDGET WILL BE UTILIZED FOR THIS OPERATION AND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE OR SOUGHT AS REQUIRED.
IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE UNDERTAKING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE INDO-CHINA REGION AND I WISH TO ASSURE THAT ICEM'S PROGRAM OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE AREA WILL BE CLOSELY

COORDINATED. UNQUOTE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY. DALE

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Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
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